



THE SEAFARER

April—June 2015



The official newsletter
of USCGC JAMES (WMSL 754)

TRIALS AND DELIVERY

Prior to the upcoming Commissioning of USCGC JAMES on August 8th 2015, the 5th and newest National Security Cutter underwent an extensive number of inspections to ensure the cutter was ready for delivery to the Coast Guard. These at sea inspections were held in what is formally known as Builder Trials and Acceptance Trials. JAMES successfully completed both of these trials and was successfully delivered to the U.S. Coast Guard from Ingalls Shipbuilding on June 5th 2015. The delivery of JAMES marked a major milestone as it became an official Coast Guard asset. Anticipation is growing amongst the crew as they bring the ship to life. This issue of The Seafarer reflects the past events and the crew's experience throughout each evolution.

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The fifth Ingalls-built U.S. Coast Guard National Security Cutter, James (WMSL 754), sailed the Gulf of Mexico on April 5th 2015 for her successful builder's sea trials. Photo by Lance Davis/Huntington Ingalls Industries

Video of Builder's Trials can be found [here](#)



BUILDER'S TRIALS

Builder's Trials was held on April 5th 2015.

This was the cutter's first opportunity to demonstrate its capabilities while underway. Several crewmembers had the privilege of setting sail on CGC JAMES during the extensive trial period.

During the week-long evolution, a full-power propulsion test was conducted along with 180 other trials involving JAMES robust shipboard systems.

The crew of JAMES worked closely and diligently with contractors to identify potential issues and address them accordingly. With ample visibility, the cutter is preparing well for the commissioning ceremony in August.

Captain Tiongson stated, "JAMES' successful completion of builder's trials means it's one step closer to joining the Coast Guard fleet and executing some of the most challenging maritime security missions facing our Nation. The men and women of Huntington Ingalls Industries and the Coast Guard Acquisitions Program should feel proud of getting JAMES to this point in construction."



JAMES crewmembers participating in Builder's Trials



*Coast Guard Acquisitions Personnel
participating in JAMES' Builders Trials*

THOUGHTS FROM THE JAMES CREW

"It was a pleasure to finally get the chance to meet JAMES and observe her operational capabilities first hand. Bringing JAMES to life is a once-in-a-career opportunity, DECK FORCE continues to stay ahead of the challenges and amaze me day-in and day-out! Our team's willingness and determination to succeed is incredible."

- BOSN3 Christopher Brown

"Although I had stepped aboard a National Security Cutter (NSC) before, it was a very different experience getting underway on JAMES. There was a definite air of excitement, and a feeling among the crewmembers present for Builder's Trials that "this one is ours."

- LT Cynthia Travers

ACCEPTANCE TRIALS

May 5th marked another milestone for JAMES. With the Navy's Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) onboard, Huntington Ingalls Industries Test and Trials team led the testing of JAMES propulsion, electrical, damage control, anchor handling, small boat operations and combat systems. This was the culminating event that would later lead to the acceptance of JAMES as the Coast Guard's newest asset. Following the approval to continue with the delivery of the ship, members of the crew began the on-load of goods and materials in their respective spaces and berthing areas.

Captain Tiongson had the following remarks concerning the conclusion of Acceptance Trials, "The highly successful completion of these acceptance trials confirms that the shipbuilding efforts of Huntington Ingalls Industries and Coast Guard acquisitions have been outstanding... We can't wait to sail the cutter through the Gulf of Mexico and along the coast to Boston for its commissioning in early August and to our homeport of Charleston, South Carolina by September."



IN COMMISSION SPECIAL



June 5th was a greatly anticipated day for the crew and shipyard contractors. Many gathered as Captain Tiongson accepted on the behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard the delivery of CGC JAMES from Ingalls Shipyard. The official party present at the signing of the DD-250 included Senior Procurement Executive and Head of Contracting Activity, Ms. Ashley Lewis, Huntington Ingalls Industries Shipbuilding National Security Cutter Program Manager, Mr. Jim French, Gulf Coast Project Resident Office, Captain James Hurley, and Coast Guard Program Manager, Captain James Knight. Following the signing, the crew of JAMES gathered for the ceremonious delivery and placement of JAMES in a “In Commission Special” status.

The ceremony consisted of the transfer of the Ship’s Key from Ms. Lewis to Captain Tiongson, as well as conducting colors by the first inport duty section led by the Officer of the Deck (OOD), CWO3 Christopher Brown and comprised of BM1 Justin Clements, BM2 Richard Olson, BM3 Brett Thomas, BM3 Jennifer Pender, SN Nelson Duarte, and SN Martin Flynn. The crew also received their first JAMES unit ball caps, which signifies their first official day as a cohesive unit onboard CGC JAMES.

BM3 Jennifer Pender of Deck Department recalled, “Today is a pretty big deal for everyone on the crew, we’ve been working very hard to get the ship ready to take over, and everyone has been looking forward to it for a really long time now.” Everyone on the flight deck was excited to see ownership of JAMES change hands, but maybe none more so than the new Captain. Captain Andrew Tiongson said, “I’m blessed, I’m honored, I’m humbled to have this opportunity to be the first commanding officer of Coast Guard Cutter JAMES, with that comes tremendous responsibility.”

He also stressed the important responsibilities of his crew as well, reminding them of their obligation as a “plank owner,” an ancient term for a member of a new ship’s first crew. DC2 Dustin Roll said, “Now, it’s basically running drills, getting the crew acclimated to the ship and then running more drills, making sure the crew is ready to respond.”

While it’s a new start for this ship, and its Captain and crew, her delivery marks the end of its project manager’s four decade career at Ingalls. Ingalls has already provided four of the eight national security ships and JAMES marked the fifth.

There is still a great deal of work on the horizon in preparation for the Commissioning Ceremony in Boston on August 8th 2015; however, the crew is eager to move forward. Their “can-do” attitude and camaraderie is extraordinary and evident to all visitors. It is without a doubt that the crew is ready for the upcoming adventures.



IN COMMISSION SPECIAL



CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Hello Family and Friends of CGC JAMES,

Wow! A great deal has transpired since the last issue of The Seafarer. As you know, with the exception of a few people who are at schools or underway on other cutters, we are all down in Pascagoula, Mississippi. The contractor building JAMES, Huntington Ingalls Industry, and the Coast Guard's overseers of the contract, Project Resident Office Gulf Coast (PRO-GC), passed significant milestones. First, in early April, JAMES successfully completed Builder's Trials at sea. During Builder's trials, the contractor runs the cutter through various drills and exercises to test the operations of all shipboard systems. The drills and exercises were evaluated by PRO-GC and some of the cutter's crew - JAMES' performance was great! In late April, JAMES successfully completed Acceptance Trials at sea. Essentially, the same process as Builder's Trials is followed during Acceptance Trials with one addition - a team from the U.S. Navy sails on the cutter to assist in the evaluation of the various drills and exercises. Again, JAMES' performance was great!

I am proud of the crew's efforts in learning as much as possible about the Coast Guard's newest cutter. Undoubtedly, they are ready to stand the watch onboard JAMES and safely sail the cutter to its official commissioning ceremony in Boston, which remains scheduled for August 8th. If I do not see you in Boston, I am looking forward to seeing you upon our return to homeport in late August.

Best Wishes,

Captain Tiongson

XO's COMMENTS

Greetings to JAMES family and friends!

These past few weeks have been hectic yet exciting, as we executed the final phase of a four-phase crew transition plan from our homeport of North Charleston to Huntington Ingalls Industries shipyard in Pascagoula, Mississippi. Finally, with the exception of some personnel deployed aboard other Coast Guard units and temporarily assigned to pipeline training and schools, the JAMES crew is at full complement, together in one place, and readying themselves for our Commissioning tour. Upon delivery, the crew took full ownership of the cutter, its state-of-the-art systems and technologies, and all associated equipment. Needless to say, these are exciting times, and this “plankowner” crew (crewmembers that are present when a new Coast Guard unit is delivered and commissioned) is on the verge of making history!

Sincerely,
LCDR Matt Moyer



OMBUDSMAN'S OUTREACH

I encourage all the spouses to email me if you have not been receiving my emails and E-vites. If you have a question, I will do my best to answer it or point you in the direction of someone who can. You can email me at: Caycelacorte@yahoo.com.



ON—LOAD

Prior to the delivery of CGC JAMES from Ingalls, the on-load of goods and materials were brought onboard by the crew. Everything from large equipment to berthing furniture was individually carried and passed along by crewmembers until the materials made it to their respective spaces. Although the items were heavy and the Mississippi heat was intense, the crew remained in good spirits as they brought their ship to life one item at a time.



READY FOR SEA



From firefighting to flooding, the crew of CGC JAMES is diligently mastering Damage Control as one team. Many members attended specialized schools from San Diego, CA to Mayport, FL; while others were taught by our very own DCC Gohier, DC1 Stiehr, DC2 Roll, DC3 Cantolina, and DC3 Horodnik. Based on these experiences, the crew will be well prepared for our first full underway opportunity and patrol.

FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS

CWO SMITH



From his early beginnings as a junior enlisted member of the Coast Guard, SKC Jason Smith worked diligently to achieve the rank of Chief Warrant Officer while attached to CGC JAMES. Although he was with our unit for a brief period of time, he was instrumental in establishing and overseeing the support aspect. He will continue his service in Boston. We thank him for his great contributions to CGC JAMES and wish him the best of luck!

MKCS PETRAS

Senior Chief Petty Officer Michael J. Petras retired on June 5th 2015. He was one of the pioneers of the Engineering Department of CGC JAMES. He provided outstanding support of engineering projects and attentive oversight of multiple trials of the cutter prior to delivery. By his managerial ability and unswerving devotion to duty, Senior Chief Petty Officer Petras reflected a prime example of professionalism and expertise. We wish him the best and thank him tremendously for his contributions to CGC JAMES.



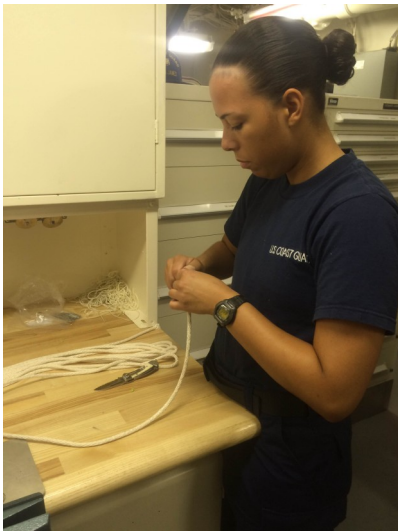
SN CASTILLO

Seaman Steven Castillo hit the ground running as he established himself as the “go-to” junior member of the cutter. His positive attitude and motivation served as a great example for many of our newly reported Seaman. He spared no hesitation toward earning qualifications as well as leaning as much as he could about different rates so he could pursue the right community. After months of building up his competitiveness, he was selected to attend Maritime Enforcement Specialist “A” School. We wish him the best of luck at school as well as the newly adventures that await him.

WELCOME ABOARD

SN LEWIS

Hailing from Dallas, Pennsylvania, SN James Lewis reported onboard CGC JAMES during the first week of June. He described his reporting experience as initially nerve-racking, but his nerves soon subsided as the crew welcomed him with open arms. As his first unit, he did not know what to expect. He found that the most important thing to get through demanding days is motivation. "The days are long," Lewis explains, "but everyone is working hard so the best thing to do is keep a positive attitude." SN Lewis is currently working toward his qualifications and understanding the different rates the Coast Guard has to offer. Like many of his shipmates, he is excited for the upcoming months in preparation for Commissioning.

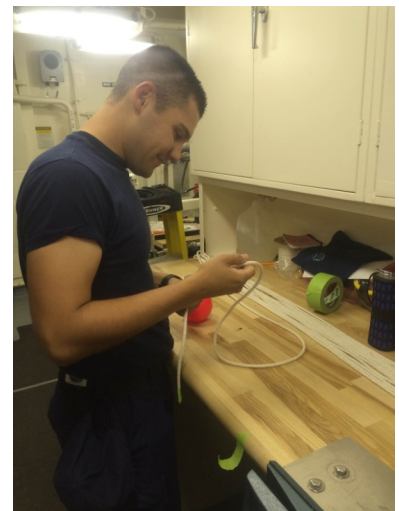


SN JAMES

Hailing from Corpus Christi, Texas, SN Victoria James found her initial days onboard CGC JAMES very surreal. Arriving straight from boot camp, SN James was not sure what to expect from a precommissioned unit. She continued to get her bearing with the help of her sponsor BM3 Pender as well as many of her other shipmates. Now, she is comfortable and in full swing of the JAMES pace. Her days consist of working with Deck Force and getting the ship ready for the upcoming inspection. Her advice for newly reporting members is to be mentally and physically prepared to work hard and tackle the next day's task.

SN MCGREGOR

Hailing from Caswell Country, NC, SN Alexander McGregor found himself breaking out of his shell and learning about life onboard a National Security Cutter. Prior to reporting to CGC JAMES, he initially anticipated that the ship would have a very strict environment (similar to that of boot camp); however, he found our crew to be more like a family. Furthermore, he learned about maintaining a strong work ethic within a demanding environment. He hopes to continue to learn as much as he can while onboard CGG JAMES and is eager for the upcoming time underway.



WELCOME ABOARD (CONTINUE)



On June 22nd, CGC JAMES gained four additions to the crew. ENS Tony Buzzini, ENS Nico Romero, ENS Ruby Surgent, and ENS Noel Cruz arrived after graduating from the Coast Guard Academy on the 20th of May in New London, CT. Like many members of the crew, our new junior officers grew up across the United States. ENS Buzzini hails from Boise, Idaho. ENS Romero hails from Harlingen, Texas. ENS Surgent hails from Huntingtown, Maryland, and lastly ENS Cruz hails from Waterbury, Connecticut. Furthermore, each are bringing their own specialties from the Academy. ENS Romero and ENS Surgent are within the Engineering Department, ENS Buzzini is within Combat Systems Department and ENS Cruz is within Operations Department. We await the arrival of one more Ensign in the near future.



To all the new shipmates, we welcome you to the JAMES family and we look forward to all your great contributions as we move forward towards commissioning!

"Greater love hath no man than this -- that a man lay down his life for his friends."

- Massachusetts Humane Society in regards to Joshua James

AROUND THE “OFFICE”



ON THE HORIZON

With delivery from Ingalls Shipyard to the U.S. Coast Guard, CGC JAMES is preparing for her tour along the eastern coastline and will ultimately commissioning the cutter on August 8th 2015 in Boston, MA. The anticipation is growing as the ship is brought to life by the crew. Although there were many factors that went into moving onboard and steady the cutter up, the crew continues to do great work and live up to the namesake of Joshua James. As we begin the new phase of the commissioning process, be sure to follow the adventures on our new CGC JAMES Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/USCGCJAMES>



USCGC JAMES (WMSL 754)

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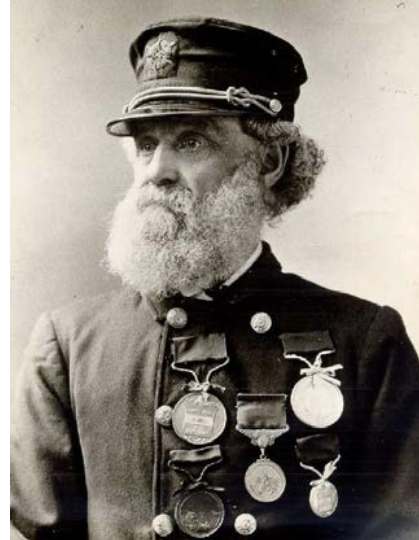
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History of Joshua James

Joshua James was probably the most celebrated lifesaver in the world, credited with saving hundreds of lives from the age of 15 when he first joined the Massachusetts Humane Society until his death at the age of 75 while on duty with the U.S. Life-Saving Service.

He was honored with the highest medals of the Humane Society, the United States, and many other organizations.

His father, mother, brother, wife, and son were also heroic lifesavers.



A special silver medal was struck for Joshua by the Humane Society in 1886, for "brave and faithful service of more than 40

years." The report said "During this time he assisted in saving over 100 lives."

The most famous rescue of his career, for which he received the Humane Society's gold medal, as well as the Gold Life-Saving Medal from the United States Government, took place between the 25th and 26th of November, 1888. During that period he and his men saved the lives of 29 persons from five vessels.

More information on Joshua James can be found at
http://www.uscg.mil/history/people/Joshua_James.asp



*On behalf of the entire crew of the CGC JAMES, we would like to bestow our sincere appreciation for the friends and family who support our daily efforts to prepare the ship into operational status. Whether underway or inport, our families and friends are a constant motivator and our **brave and faithful service** is for you.*